

REMARKS

The present amendment is in response to the Office Action dated March 25, 2008, which set a three-month period for response, making this amendment due by June 25, 2008.

Claims 4-10, 12, and 14-25 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 10, 12, and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 4-5, 8-9, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,671,815 to Kabatnik et al. Claims 6-7, 10, 12, and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kabatnik.

In the present amendment, claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 17.

New claim 18 was amended to more clearly define that the legs 571b facing away from the guiding opening 59 extend ***over only a portion of said guide sleeve that is substantially less than half of a length of the guide sleeve***. As noted in the last amendment, Kabatnik clearly shows that the legs face away from the sleeve opening in the longitudinal direction over about *2/3 of the length of the opening 59*, that is, over most of the length. A *2/3* portion clearly is not a limited portion of the guide sleeve that constitutes less than half of the guide sleeve length.

As disclosed in Kabatnik et al, the openings of the web 56 between the web 56 and the contact plates 54 (incorrectly numbered as 59 in Fig. 5) do not

only extend over a limited portion of the introduction dome as defined in previously amended claim 10. Instead, they extend over the entire length of the introduction dome 53.

The Examiner admits in the Office Action that Kabatnik does not disclose the power supply module as claimed. The Applicants disagree that it would be obvious to configure or modify the structure of the module to include ALL of the specific features of claim 10, since Kabatnik is silent as to any such modifications or adjustments to the structure. No secondary reference is provided to supplement Kabatnik in this regard.

The advantages of providing a rib and a recess which extend only over a limited portion of the guide sleeve and the introduction dome, respectively, is described in the specification of the present application on page 5, lines 9-16.

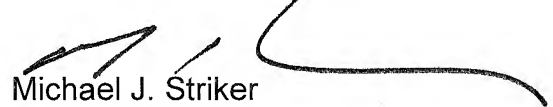
With regard to the outstanding rejection of independent claim 17, the Applicants also note that no comments regarding the Applicants' previous amendment and arguments were provided in the present Office Action, that is, further clarification as to why the amendments do not distinguish over the Kabatnik reference. Rather, the rejections appear to be identical restatements of the grounds presented in the first Office Action. The Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not established a prima facie case of obviousness for every claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), instead relying on blanket statements without evidentiary support. Multiple elements and combinations of elements recited in the claims are taken as obvious without any citation of prior art in the outstanding Office Action, and since the Examiner has made no

assertion of "Official Notice", it is unclear whether the burden has been shifted to the Applicant to traverse such notice (see MPEP Section 2144.03).

Furthermore, because new claim 18 includes features that are not disclosed or suggested by Kabatnik et al, the rejection under Section 102 must be withdrawn. The Applicants furthermore respectfully submit that Kabatnik is not a proper reference under 35 USC 102 pursuant to the guidelines set forth in the last paragraph of MPEP section 2131, where it is stated that "a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claims is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference", and that "the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim".

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited. However, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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